

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 22, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1475**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Cooper**

February 27, 2015

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An act to add Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 13898) to Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, relating to sexual abuse.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1475, as amended, Cooper. Sexual assault response team.

Existing law authorizes any county to establish and implement a sexual assault felony enforcement (SAFE) team program for the purpose of reducing violent sexual assault offenses in the county through proactive surveillance and arrest of habitual sexual offenders and strict enforcement of registration for sex offenders, and to provide community education about ways to protect individuals and families from sexual assault.

This bill would authorize each county to establish an interagency sexual assault response team (SART) program for the purpose of providing a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination to effectively address the problem of sexual assault. The members of the team would be representatives of specified public and private agencies and organizations. The bill would require each SART to, among other things, evaluate the effectiveness of individual agency and interagency protocols and systems by conducting case reviews involving sexual assault.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 13898)  
is added to Title 6 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, to read:

CHAPTER 12. COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM  
(SART) PROGRAM

13898. (a) Each county may establish and implement an  
interagency sexual assault response team (SART) program for the  
purpose of providing a forum for interagency cooperation and  
coordination, to assess and make recommendations for the  
improvement in the local sexual assault intervention system, and  
to facilitate improved communication and working relationships  
to effectively address the problem of sexual assault in California.

(b) Each SART program shall be established and implemented  
pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

13898.1. (a) Each SART may consist of representatives of the  
following public and private agencies or organizations:

- (1) Law enforcement agencies.
- (2) County district attorneys' offices.
- (3) Rape crisis centers.
- (4) Local sexual assault forensic examination teams.
- (5) Crime laboratories.
- (6) *University and college Title IX coordinators.*
- (7) *University and college police departments.*

(b) Dependent upon local needs and goals, each SART may  
include representatives of the following public and private agencies  
or organizations:

- (1) Child protective services.
- (2) Local victim and witness assistance centers.
- (3) County public health departments.
- (4) County mental health services departments.
- (5) Forensic interview centers.

13898.2. The program established pursuant to this chapter shall  
have the following objectives:

1 (a) Review of local sexual assault intervention undertaken by  
2 all disciplines to promote effective intervention and best practices.

3 (b) Assessment of relevant trends, including drug-facilitated  
4 sexual assault, the incidence of predator date rape, and human sex  
5 trafficking.

6 (c) Evaluation of the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of a per  
7 capita funding model for local sexual assault forensic examination  
8 teams to achieve stability for this component of the SART program.

9 (d) Evaluation of the effectiveness of individual agency and  
10 interagency protocols and systems by conducting case reviews of  
11 cases involving sexual assault.

12 (e) *Plan and implement effective prevention strategies and*  
13 *collaborate with other agencies and educational institutions to*  
14 *address sexual assault perpetrated by strangers, sexual assault*  
15 *perpetrated by persons known to the victim, including, but not*  
16 *limited to, a friend, family member, or general acquaintance of*  
17 *the victim, predatory date rape, risks associated with binge alcohol*  
18 *drinking, and drug-facilitated sexual assault.*